

Alumni Open Letter to Westmont College Administration Regarding Racism on Campus

March 6, 2020

To Westmont's Administration:

We alumni have become aware of recent racist incidents on campus and feel compelled to speak out as a group in order to express our frustration, disappointment, and discouragement. We find the treatment of students, faculty, and staff of color at Westmont to be unacceptable, un-Christian, and indefensible, and as alumni, we reject these behaviors and decisions.

Racism at Westmont is certainly not a new phenomenon, as evidenced by the low numbers of faculty and staff of color (particularly in executive and tenure-track positions), the lack of support for students of color, the absence of racial justice education requirements, the unwillingness to discuss faith in the context of race, and the repeated lip service paid to diversity that is never backed up by concrete action. Despite students of color advocating for equity and justice for decades, as the 1968 Horizon article "Negro Life in a White Cloud" featuring quotes from students Audrey Davis and Barbara Allen demonstrates, Westmont has resisted making meaningful, long-term changes or meeting students' demands.

In the past few years, this has become even more evident. The lack of transparency in the campus pastor decision alongside the tokenization of offering a diversity pastor position once again reiterated that race is a tangential and marginal concern for Westmont rather than a central priority. Despite public statements about diversity, Westmont has failed to engage with what diversity would actually mean for the campus beyond face-value aesthetics, and has failed to address the underlying factors that lead to Westmont's racially homogenous culture. Westmont's recent accreditation report's recommendations were almost all directly or indirectly related to diversity, and yet Westmont continues to shut down and intimidate students of color who speak out to voice their experiences. Westmont administration continually positions students of color, particularly those involved with Intercultural Programs, as equally culpable in campus discord, framing those most harmed by the problems as part of the problem. The Westmont White Jesus conversation further indicates the continued penchant for dialogue without action, and carelessness and apathy toward marginalized students' concerns.

Beyond these long-standing tendencies and patterns, the numerous racist incidents over the past month have particularly spurred us as alumni to address the administration. From the restructuring of Intercultural Programs which occurred without input from current or past ICP leaders, to the use of photos of students of color for misleading promotional images (as discussed in the recent Horizon article "Stop Racial Tokenization at Westmont"), to the defacement and removal of posters expressing the experiences of students of color,



Westmont has actively ignored, tokenized, and silenced students of color. At Monday's lecture on "Race, Memory, and Monuments After Charlottesville," a white audience member from the Santa Barbara community repeatedly used the dehumanizing n-word without anyone addressing what was happening, until a Black professor stood up and intervened. The burden to stop dehumanizing rhetoric should not be on people of color at Westmont. Furthermore, Westmont should not be a space where people feel like using racial slurs is acceptable. Westmont administration failed to publicly address this incident until Wednesday in chapel, and has not yet sent any other form of communication or taken any other action to educate its students of the history of that dehumanizing slur, or to care for the mental and emotional wellbeing of the people affected by what happened.

In fact, not only has Westmont failed to publicly address Monday's incident in writing, but instead has prioritized reprimanding and intimidating students who are attempting to bring attention to racism on campus. In an all-student email sent yesterday morning, administration threatened disciplinary action against students expressing themselves by posting signs on campus. Throughout this year, other unapproved posters, mainly featuring jokes or memes, have been hung around campus without administration feeling the need to publicly address the issue, revealing that for the administration the problem is not with unapproved posters but with students of color expressing their experiences. Although we appreciate the public apology sent later that day and consider it a step in the right direction, unless backed up by concrete action, apologies will not cause real change.

In light of all of this and more, including the serious psychological harm done to students of color throughout Westmont's history, we alumni reject Westmont's inability to acknowledge racism and work for the betterment of the lives of students of color on campus. We demand that Westmont address its previous and current actions that have harmed and continue to harm students of color. If Westmont has any interest in being antiracist, it needs to listen to students of color and establish infrastructure and support mechanisms for students, faculty, and staff of color on campus. Until Westmont addresses the presence of white supremacy in its culture and history, change will not come.

From our viewpoint as alumni, we believe Westmont could begin by instituting racial education standards, promoting faculty of color to tenure, allocating more financial and staff resources to Intercultural Programs, improving transparency in communication with the student body, creating accountability for racist incidents that occur on campus, including a wider variety of theological traditions and cultural backgrounds in chapel, and continually, actively, purposefully working to reorient Westmont and its vision in order to better demonstrate the radical inclusivity and justice represented by the life of Christ. However, given that we alumni are no longer at Westmont, we think it would be even more beneficial for Westmont to heed the demands of the students of color who are currently on campus. As alumni, we are representatives of the Westmont community to the wider world, and we believe Westmont can do and become better. Given this belief, we call upon Westmont to listen to its students of color and enact meaningful, structural change.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned Alumni of Westmont College



Links:

A timeline of events (updates by-the-hour by current students)

<https://westmontwhitejesus.weebly.com/blog>

A link to the aforementioned 1968 Horizon article

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BYRftxMOKnZ9bmE6AfHh--azVF0yW7l4/view?usp=sharing>

Signed:

Olivia Stowell '19

Caleb Rodriguez '19

Joy Ferguson '18

Nicci Carrasco '18

Bethany Le '19

Rebekah Beeghly '19

Alyssa Walsh '19

Hannah Krieshok '19

Cole Newcomb '18

Jezreel Real '19

Tanner Begin '18

Isabel Mata '18

Leslie Duggin '18

Sarah Glasco '18

Grace Teranishi '18

Madison Widener '18

Emily Hughes '17

Parker Leach '18

Leah Monica '18

Logan Foltz '19

Danielle Tisdale '17

Vincent Luna '18

Julia Lee '17

Sherry del Campo '17

Erika Serame '18

Lillian Chen '18

Jordan Baldrige '17

Lauren Rodriguez '17

Janna Jensen '18

Macy Gipson '18

Brittany Bland-Boyd '18

Emily Peterson '18

Quinn Strickler '16

Alyssa Wright '18

Katie Ogata '18

Sage Rios Mace

Karen Molina '19

Sierra Farrar '19

Kate Melman '19

Philip Song '18



Megan Kent '18
Alysha Kim '16
Carlos Diaz '18
Chelsie Sen '18
Ilana Baer '18
Mayra Toscano Reveles '16
Mari Freitas '18
Cecilia Bratton '18
Elizabeth Barrios
Grace Sorensen
Jon Skidanov '17
Eric Byun '17
Belinda Garcia '19
Troy Chimuma '18
Daniel Kohl '17
Jayne Avendano '19
Gloria Smith '19
Andrew Olson '18
Maya Roberts '18
Steven T. Auclair '15
Lauren Sende '16
Danielle Costa '17
Maria Alvarez '19
Hien Bui '18
Maddie Jaramillo
Victoria Garcia
Rebekah Catron '17
Karlie Storkson '16
Bryan Avendano '16
Melanie Boonstra '18
Jason Tong '17
Caitlin Postal '13
Elizabeth Namkung '18
Emily Heiden '17
Katie Harriman '14
Hannah Belk '17
Corinna Ott '14
Karly Kuntz '18
Lindsay Park '19
Harrison Woodard '18
Gabriel Grabowski '19
Hannah Martin '19
Tanner Roberts '18
Leah Sadoian '14
Bethany Pace '18
Keyoni Conley
Lauren Furr '18
Talía Schuyler '19
Micah Anthony '18



Melissa (Sanchez) Baskin '14

Kady Martin '19

Puanani Jelf-Albert '16

Elle Adams '18

Morgan Erickson '19

Austin Lee '19

Michelle Vera '19

Darlene Serrano '19

Mia Altman '17

Deborah Elmer '18

Lauren Ramirez '19

Adrianea Smith '18

Ashley Ochi '17

Savannah Haus '18

Hailey Wiper '18

Rebeca Garcia '19

Kathryn Patrick '18

Jenna Catalon '18

Rebekah Wong '18

Olivia Peck '16

Rhea Williams '18

Katie Conover '19

Danielle Awabdeh '18

Jennah Rivera '18

Kasey Iverson '18

Courtney DeWilde

Elli Scheer '18

Arianna Spiller '17

Elena White '18

Jessica Erickson '18

Alexa Stevinson '14

Hailey Turner Baldridge '18

Karin Oxenham '14

Jaehee Han '18

Julianna DeNike '19

Nina Fox '19

Nathan Cha '18

Gabrielle Williams '19

Benjamin Wilcox '16

Haylie Petre

Christina Lee '15

Jillian Espejo '18

Brenna Ritchey '19

Jordan Kaeck '18

Gabby Rodriguez '19

Agnes Drewitt '16

Kaitlin Kinney '17

Kelina Tongg-Woodall '18

Jordan Bishop '19



Erin LeVoor '15
Myvy Ngo '14
Surin Kim '17
Lindsay Stanek
Cat Siu '17
Lauren Koo '19
Nadine Lara '18
Summer Wallen '17
Brenna Humphrey '18
Megan Siverly '16
Benjamin Siverly '14
Madi Brown '18
Mak Manson '14
Erin Congdon '19
Joshua Stratton '14
Katie Bloom '18
Danielle Romero '17
Ben Offringa '14
Malachi Bryson '18
Jessica Lim '18
Jacque Dewalt '17
Brianna Stoppa '19
Emily McCarthy '18
Kyra Coleman '19
Claire Masterson '18
Amanda Sutter '14
Aly Caldera
Ana Goena '17
Samuel DeWilde Muthiah '18
Jessica Dean '17
Theresa Bradford '13
Ryan Anderson '16
Sunny Kim '19
Amanda Tucker '17
Ryan Splitstone '14
Kat Kendall '17
Isabel Sheehan '19
David Weller '15
Christina Bae '17
Donald Scherschligt '16
Lindsey DeWilde Muthiah '17
Henry Yun '18
Katherine Kwong '17
Maya Espinoza '17
Anna Telfer '18
Miles Redfern '19
Peter Casey '18
Branon Eusebio '17
Jacob Clark '19



Brett Shagena '18
Heesu Chae '17
Clarissa Garcia '19
Aaron Hooks '19
Emma Blaschke '18
Izzy Esber '19
Karla Camacho '19
Merckx Dascomb '19
Mary Elizabeth Heard '18
Tyler Merkel '15
Faith Cho '16
Wesley Simmonds '18
Jordan Petersen '16
Matthew Jeffers '18
Brynn Mitchell '15
Chloe Johnson '17
Rylee Fortosis '18
Mateo Arroyave '18
Haley Fryer '19
Jennifer Hoffman '18
Hannah (Bruesehoff) Simmonds '18
Melanie Moreno '19
Preston Green '18
Mallory Preheim '19
Mykaela Schluter '18
Rachel Link
McKenna Mowery '17
Richard Peña
Tyler Bradford '18
Madison Taylor '16
Cassidy Rea '19
Emily Stratton '15
Jessica Cruz '18
Kristan Holding '16
Luke Lebsack '17
Kaylee Kenna '17
Hannah Smith '18
Grant Bradford '18
Michaela Deegan '18
Landon Schluter '19
Jazmine Anderson Islas '19
Elena Schneider '17
Jamison Whitcher '18
Samantha Sanchez Merrill Limkeman '14
Alanna Richards '18
Korbin Breeden '19
Jessica Beeghly '09
Nathan Beeghly '09
Alanna Richards '18



Shelby Sparrow (Downs) '15
Angel Rodriguez '17
Maddy Cook '18
Danielle Kaltenbach '18
Zoe Bunnell '19
Hannah Johnson Sheets '15
Nolan Brudi '18
Roni Gonzalez '18
Carol Patzia Rewers '92
Brittany Bancroft '19
Emma Awonuga-Robins '17
David Fure '16
Andrea Stewart '18
Bethany Day '15
Jacob Wilson '17
Nikki Ramage '14
Geoffrey Jensen '09
Blake Ebert '16
Justine Wieland '12
Gabriella Pinheiro-Chavez '14
Britnee Sweat
Skyler Hust '15
Brennan Lanphear '15
Claire Johnson '16
Ethan Park '15
Rachel Maragliano '17
Ruby Baer '19
Lindsey Taylor '12
Lindsay Aprahamian '12
Taylor Williams '16
Sarah Pramono '19
Jackson Nemitz '19
Madeline DeRaud '16
Zoe Newcomb Donahoe '15
Kay Klosterman Harris '81
Cassidy Stanford '19
Paige Jensen '13
Ally Quadros '16
Lexi Aprahamian Molloy '10
Rachel Pokipala '19
Annaliese Yukawa '17
Hugh Grant-Chapman '18
Cailee (Schoolland) Boone '12
Alejandro Carvajal '18
Benjamin Peterson '18
Sophie Fuller '17
Nathan Tarr '18
Bethany Baca '16
Caroline Thomas '19



Danielle Lai '16
Sophie Rivera '18
Rhianna Pierre-Puckett '13
Cory Schoolland '08
Ashlyn Bartlett '19
Madison Sams '17
Cora Rose '07
Matt Pace '16
Abby Gritter '17
Jack Mendenhall '18
Shane E. Rowan '15
Holli Morrow Tubbs '16
Jonathan Pierre-Puckett '13
Daniel Namkung '16
Heidi Nicholls '15
Anneka Rienstra '15
Natalie Wells '17
Elizabeth Cormode '15
Jay Larinan '15
Joshua Feliscuzo '19
Amanda Siegel '13
Stefanie Williams '10
Joseph Briones '16
Brianne Gaultiere '14
Cora Chan '17
Erin Leahy '18
Stephen Beveridge '17
Ellie Rouse '18
Joshua Caleb Collins '07
Jonah Magness '19
Madison Ash '18
Megan Shagren '18
Haley P '18
Aubrey Nelson '18
Erik Hansen '18
Katie Skiff '17
Kenny Chism '17
Nicholas Schoolland '06
Alexis Ireland '15
Sierra Rehmke
Michelle Duan '16
Emma Donelson '18
Elaine (Pazaski) Wagstaffe '15
Laurel Bonsack '18
Lynne Martens '08
Christina Buckley '15
Brianna Newport '19
Kati Paye '15
Stephen Avila '14



Diana (Musson) Rogers '06
Chloe Fang '15
Madeline Coates '16
Madelyn Olaerts '19
Holly Erassarret '18
Clayton Brown '18
Kennedy Mahdavi '18
Lindsey Twigg '16
Laura Robinett '13
Christopher Wagstaffe '14
Alexa Goglanian '15
Sarah Groeneveld '08
Annmarie Rodriguez '16
Ellie Jolly '19
Makayla Monahan '18
Brontee Ryan '18
Madison Herrera '18
Anthony Cota '18
Peter Knopf '18
Brandon Wong '15
Katie Pluymert Weller '15
Victoria Morookian '17
Christopher Riba '17
Baylee Bontems '14
Emily (Hagen) Mengon '14
Danielle Draper '16
Megan (Donnelly) Leaf '14
Grace Ellen Miller '14
Jessica Ortiz
Andrew Greenman '17
Alison Yeh '14
Paige Tautz '14
Katie Wright '16
Ariana Bilek '13
Alex Grasseschi '17
Jenna Wilber '16
Kai Nakamoto '17
Alexandria Fisher '16
Bryanna Rivera '19
Vanessa Acain '18
Emily Hauck '15
Haley Berggren Grubbs '15
Emilee Peterson '13
Ellen Brudi '15
Jessi Rydman '18
Brady Hutchings
Luke Patterson '14
Matthew Oatis
Elena White '18



Lindsay Call '16
Alisa Mathes '19
Austen Nelson '19
Sara (Barr) Chalmers '13
Tom Hamlin '18
Savannah Richey '18
Julia Wiggan '15
Ashley Rogers '15
Briana Miyoko Stanley Lane '15
Timothy Lane '16
Hannah Montzingo Pick '12
David Han '15
Edin Kuba '19
José Valle '15
Ryan Talen '14
Natalie Rehfeld
Rachel LoGrasso '17
Aleah (Bond) Noel '14
Jaewoo Chung '15
Diana Browne '14
Prudence Gordon Riva '15
Brandon Jones '19
Kylie Miller '14
Alex Lillenberg '13
Austin Lillenberg '13
Grace Lemley '17
Alice Geng '16
Kirk Raynor '19
Mikaela Ryan '18
Sergio Castaneda '18
Connor Riva '16
Rachel Eusebio '16
Heather Ostberg '10
Cameron Haramia '14
Brittany Williams '18
Megan Greeley '16
Matthew Lee '19
Alexx Hamilton '19
Serena Buie '14
Jesse Olson '17
Kayla McCarthy '11
Alexa Mogck '18
Elysia Mitchell '15
Tania Martinez '19
Amber Newell '12
Alisa Unell '15
Kirsty Sinclair '18
Natalia Hatley '12
Dean Vasquez '89



Michelle Cueto
Georgie Kelly '08
Ann Mary (Wood) Ferguson '92
Kara Morin '15
Sarah Stumme '19
Sabrina Marunde '18
Mona Eby Chicks '91
Garrett Riha '17
Alejandro Santana-Vallarta '16
Jennifer (Matas) Garcia '10
Meg Wolfgram '15
Alex Van Valen '17
Julianna Carlson '15
DJ Johnsen '15
Katie Baker '15
Joshua Corbin Constant '18
Rebecca Mead '07
Cody Howen '15
Annie Kyle '14
Ryan Kent
Mackenzie Ellis '16
Sarah Sutherland '17
Ashley Kauk '17
Jason Eddy '98
Sergio Hernandez '07
Bre Rodriguez '12
Connor Bush '16
Alicia Archambault '11
Fabrice Alce '09
Blake Harper '14
Joshua Siley-Waters '17
Dominique Delgado '19
Amanda Crowley Magnuson '08
Sarah Ferguson '19
Shelby Pervorse '07
Emily Stoppler '19
Talia Tzouris '16
Will Barring '15
George Lee '04
John Miller '15
Kristen Germann '18
Andrew Tsay Jacobs '04
Micah Rice '06
Kai Baines '18
Lauren Holstein '17
Anna Elias '18
Katherine Castro '17
Will Barring '15
Emily Backman '18



Hannah Gandara '19
Kirsti Stangeland '17
Lauralyn Vasquez '89
Andrew Stoker '14
Sonora Sanchez '13
Ian Stephenson '18
Caitlin Postal, '13
Kallie Melkesian '17
Sarah Thomas (Phillips) '13
Brady Quon '16
Katie Mukai '14
Sajid Hai '15
Vi Negrete (Pham) '17
Cari Base Honsinger '09
Michal Hall Bravo Ramírez, '10
Elizabeth Simoneit '15
Emily Gaulden (Price) '10
Jordan Cunnings '08
Maddy Herman '16
Brooke Oppenhuizen (Hobbs) '16
Olivia Heath '15
Jessica LeGault '14
Paige Harris '14
Jessica Kozachuk '16
Danielle Miller '19
Marina Mendizabal '17
Brooke (Eusebio) Creech '14
Christine Highstreet '14
Holly Seguire Gil '93
Lauren Danson Purvis '13
Hannah (Davidson) Thomas '13
Elise Seagren '14
Kirsten (Vryhof) Wright '09
Carrie Pierce Kuba '93
Candice Clifford '18
Paul Kushnerov '93
Matthew Bennett '14
Cameron Hatcher-Day, '14
Sajid Hai '15
Abigail DeYoung '16
Diana Small '09
Kristin George Bagdanov '09
Micah Ikemire '97
Elise Witek '09
Katelyn Driscoll (Fleming), '15
Dan Quon '05
Arianna Nelson '09
Christian Eckert '17
Julie (Lockwood) Quon '07



Mark Carlson '18
Wanda Kim-Hayes '93
Hannah Ippolito '14
Allyson Darakjian (Arendsee) '10
Robert Limkeman '15
Krista Swan '93
Marta (Bilyeu) Dragos '73
Melissa Milne Percy '86
Christian Hatchett '15
Tessa Thym '15
Lisa Vanian Wolff '94
Spencer Fox '12
Rachel Hatcher Day '14
Sydney Hedges '17
Sean Hughes '17
Blair Veraza Taft '16
John Ashley '10
Stephen Chalmers '14
Eric Winter '08
Ravyn Cervantes '11
Kelsey Pollard '14
Jen Lorden '07
Michelle Gee '11
Corinne (Donnelly) Richardson '12
Kerstin Mooneyham '09
Stephanie Farnum '12
Andrew Hanson '18
Jay Edwards '90
Kelsey Lahr '11
Bethany (Rynberk) DeMoss '10
David Platt '91
Brannon Anderson '00
Sue Sadler '85
Chelsea Unruh '03
Jeffrey Shipley '08
Kym Paszkeicz '95
Darren McDonald '02
Matthew Bixby '11
Deborah St Julien '77
Ryan Stong '12
Miguel Aguilar '10
Jessica Drake '11
Sarah Hubbard '11
Stefanie Tate '12
Flavia Onufrei '08
Soojin Chung '18
Kelly (Stockwell) Banas '09
Andrew Massena '08
Casey Massena



Amber Hai '14
Julie Horn Romero '93
Jameisha Washington '11
Tara Tran '10
Kathryn Kong '10
Elizabeth McCahan '10
Elise Cantini '10
Fern Lim '09
Emerson Boyle '11
Kerstin Mooneyham '09
Bailey Baker '20
Caitlyn Wells '20
Sarah Groeneveld '08
Bonnie Rubrecht '01
Heather (Racine) Vaikona '02
Chris Phillips '00
Torey Rubrecht '02
Kimberly D. Jaimez '02
David Mendies '02
Allie Reilly '16
Lesley (Sebek) Miller '04
Marta Johnson '07
Anna Jordan '07
Tess Anderson Maynard '14
Caila Parodi '15
Rebecca Winchenbaugh, '15
Joy Brenneman '11
Delaney Balza '20
Afton Abell '13
Chris Emerson, '04
John Cha '14
Samantha Corralejo Falker '11
Donald Volle '73
James Linker '74
Micah Ikemire '97
Sara Volle '05
Alexis Albanez '09
Emily Stoppler '19
Britta K. Phillips '01
Sara Volle '05

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